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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Under instructions from the Director of Public Health, the Regional Nutrition Health Officer, Sholavandan, visited the village and carried out an investigation. He has reported that the disease is not primarily due to deficiency in diet. The local opinion is that it is due to the use of polluted water of the tanks. However, at the request of the Director of Public Health, the Director of Medical Services has asked the District Medical Officer, Malabar, to depute an experienced eye doctor to visit the village and send a report.

" (c) No, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, whether it is due to the defect of the water that is used or deficiency in food, it is a fact that the inhabitants of the locality are losing their eyesight. Will the Government see that proper, suitable and effective steps are taken to prevent the further spread of this disease and also see that those who are already affected are cured of the malady? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is the reason why an Eye Specialist is being sent there."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, may I know the medical term that is used for this eye disease and whether this eye disease is peculiar only to that place or is it prevalent in other places also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" From the report of the Health Officer, it seems to be what is called ' Trachoma '. It is not an eye disease peculiar to that place. It seems to have been there for the last 50 years."

* 927 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up at the end of the question hour, as requested by the hon. Member Sri Kalyanasundram."

Amendments to the Madras Educational Rules.

* 804 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Sri Krishna Ayyar is not in his seat. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the South Indian Teachers' Union regarding the amendments to the Madras Educational Rules brought about by the Government recently, viz., to rules 98 (b) and 154 of the Madras Educational Rules; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) No representations have been received by the Government against the amendments. Certain criticisms made by the South India Teachers' Union in respect of these amendments have appeared in the newspapers. A Press Note (No. 22, dated 18th March 1954), has been issued clarifying the position and pointing out the misapprehensions on which the criticisms were based."

Implementation of the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal by B.N. Press, Madras.

* 805 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state why the Government did not take steps to get the award given by the Labour Appellate Tribunal on 25th November 1953 implemented by the B.N. Press, Madras-2, regarding reinstatement of a worker with back wages?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Since the order of the Appellate Tribunal was published on 6th January 1954, the Government are taking steps to recover the dues, and to prosecute the management if they do not reinstate the worker."

Gazetted officers stationed for more than three years in the City in the Electricity Department.

* 806 Q.—SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of engineers in the gazetted rank who have been in the Electricity Department, Madras Electricity System (Madras City), for more than three years; and

(b) whether there is any Government Order to the effect that no officer should continue in a particular station for more than three years?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Fourteen.

" (b) Yes. Instructions have been issued that gazetted officers of the rank of Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers should not ordinarily be retained in the same station for more than three years. On grounds of administrative convenience and efficiency of the department or the nature of any contract post, however, it may be necessary on occasions, to retain some officers for over three years in the same station."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, is it not a fact that in the South Zone Madras Electricity System, officers who have been working for more than three years, are still stationed there? "